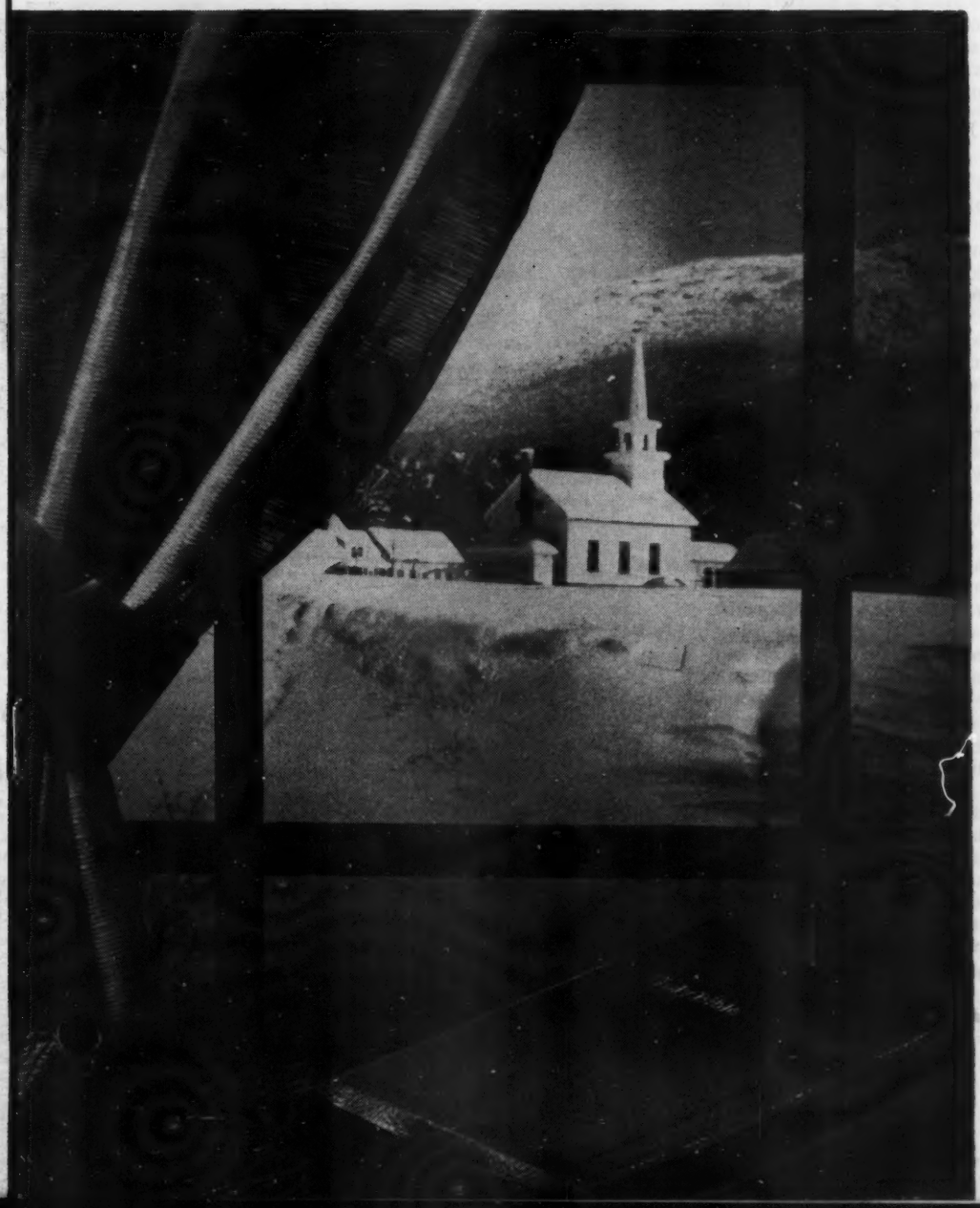
THE CHURCH OF GOD

Evangel

January 11, 1960

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.



THE MARKS OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

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FOR SOME TIME I have been thinking that I would write to our *Evangel* family to inform you about a problem that we face almost constantly, but I have been reluctant to do so. I was fearful that some might not understand. But I am receiving letters from our missionaries requesting this, and I must pass the information along to our people.

The spirit of nationalism is growing so rapidly that we have to handle our work with all precaution in order not to infringe upon the rights of any foreign government. In a number of countries it has always been a violation of their laws for an alien to have any money in his possession from any other country, and here is the problem that we are facing today. I quote a missionary from one of our fields:

"I would advise you not to send checks here to me as it is a serious violation of the law. To be caught with one would mean imprisonment or deportation from the country. Periodically the post office here opens our mail to make check on such as this, so please do not send check or money order or currency to this field."

Another missionary writes, "Because some natives on some mission fields have been writing to some of our people for specific help for them, and because in some cases these natives are not even Christians, our people are requested not to send monies or any help to any native on the field. Some of these natives have made these letters to the States a regular and lucrative business. Anyone who is interested in helping those who are deserving and who really need help should send contributions through the Missions Department."

Most all of our business with foreign countries is handled through the Bank of Exchange. Deposits are made here in the States and then, of course, the banks send the deposits to the country, for the account of that person for whom the money is designated.

—*L. H. Aultman*
Executive Missions Secretary

CHURCH OF GOD
Evangel

Official Voice of the Church of God

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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Editorial

The Marks of a Successful Life

WHAT ARE THE MARKS of a successful life? The answer to that question quite naturally depends upon our definition of success, for some consider one thing success, while others consider it failure, and esteem something quite different as success. It is needless to say that a worldly man's definition of success is far different to that of a Christian, and that God's opinion of success is even higher than that of any man.

If we desire to be successful as Christians and as ministers, we must pursue those things which constitute Christian success, with resolute disregard for the attitudes and opinions of the world. Worldly people judge success by a false set of standards, and more and more we notice people adopting these standards. Ask almost any man what he considers the marks of success, and he will reply in terms of material possessions and security. How tragically we miss the mark when we judge a person's success by the type of car he drives, by the fabric of his clothes, by the expansiveness of his home, or by the size of his bank account. These are false and superficial criteria of success, and do not deserve to have any part in the Christian estimate. To me it is flagrant insolence to hear a minister's success discussed in terms of a flashy appearance, or the number of suits in his wardrobe, or how opulent a home he can maintain. Such standards of success are in rude contrast to the words of Jesus when He warned His disciples to "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). If these be true criteria of success, then we must acknowledge that gamblers, thieves, renegades, atheists, and all sorts of evil men have attained greater success in life than most Christians have.

Furthermore, if we adopt this standard by which to measure success, we must without further ado declare that John Bunyan was an abject failure, George Fox was a failure, our own pioneer preachers were all failures, St. Francis of Assisi was a great failure, the apostle Peter was a worse failure, and Jesus Christ was the worst failure of all. Don't be led astray in your life to chasing after earthly possessions, feeling that success lies in obtaining them. Worldly possessions indicate nothing more than good fortune and business acumen—they have no part in spiritual success, and very often serve only to prove that one has *not* succeeded for God.

Position is no criterion of success—not even position in the church. We must always remember that ecclesiastical success is by no means the same as spiritual success. Many men have climbed to eminence in a church organization, knowing all the while that in their souls they were dismal failures. Position should not be regarded as success, but merely the fruit of success—the effect and not the cause.

If position be a true criterion, then the larger the church the more successful its leader, and the Bishop of Rome, the Pope of the Catholic Church, must be acknowledged as the greatest success of all—and again Christ must be regarded as the greatest failure of all.

Even popularity is a false standard, and we should not regard ourselves successful merely because we have a host of friends. If we esteem popularity to be the mark of success, then we acknowledge that the most obscene and vulgar performer in the theater or on the screen is more successful than the most devout and purest of Christians. No! This is not the mark of success! Neither are any of these things marks of success. They are all too cheap, too superficial, too fickle. Success is deeper and higher and greater than any of these things.

Let no Christian saint and no gospel preacher dejectedly despise himself as a failure because he is not able to maintain a change of clothes for every occasion, and cannot afford the newest and most expensive automobile, and cannot write checks at random. You may be a far greater success than your fellow Christian or your fellow minister who is able

(Continued on page 13)

Viewpoint

A symposium on pertinent questions and problems of the Christian life. All the contributors have been selected as authorities on the question involved. Their answers represent their candid personal views and are intended to give light on various facets of the question.

Readers are invited to submit to the editor any question they think would be beneficial for such public printed discussion.

WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, HAVE BEEN THE FIVE MOST DECISIVE STEPS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD?

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS QUESTION have been asked to consider those steps that have been decisive in making the Church of God what it is today. They were not asked about the most *favorable* or *popular* steps, or even the most *dramatic* steps, but those which have made us the church we are today.

Those whose "viewpoint" appear in this issue are:

H. L. Chesser, who has served the Church as General Overseer (1948-'52); Assistant General Overseer (1944-'48); General Secretary-Treasurer (1952-'54); member of the Supreme Council and various official boards; state overseer; pastor and evangelist. At present he is pastor at Clearwater, Florida, and is a member of the Lee College Board of Directors.

F. W. Lemons is the eldest son of M. S. Lemons, one of the original four ministers of the Church of God. He has served as Editor-in-Chief of Sunday School and Youth Literature (1944-'46); member of the Supreme Council and various official boards; pastor and evangelist. At present he is pastor in Alexandria, Virginia.

Earl P. Paulk has previously served as Assistant General Overseer (1941-'44); member of the Supreme Council and various official boards; state overseer; pastor and evangelist. At present he is Assistant General Overseer.

E. L. Simmons has served as Assistant General Overseer (1944-'45); Editor and Publisher (1939-'42); President of Lee College (1945-'48); member of the Supreme Council and various official boards; state overseer; pastor and evangelist. He is probably best known for his *History of the Church of God*, published in 1938. At present he is retired.

Zeno C. Tharp has served as General Overseer (1952-'56); Assistant General Overseer (1948-'52); Superintendent of Education (1935-'44); member of the Supreme Council and various official boards; state overseer; pastor and evangelist. At present he is retired and serves as chairman of the Editorial and Publications Board.

(Further viewpoints will be published on this question at a later date.)

H. L. Chesser

IN MY OPINION, THE five most decisive steps of the Church of God are as follows:

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE WHOLE BIBLE RIGHTLY DIVIDED, AND THE NEW TESTAMENT AS HER RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE. In Paul's writing to Timothy, he says the Church of God is the pillar and ground of the truth. Therefore to wear the name Church of God would necessitate our acceptance of the whole Bible rightly divided. It must support the whole truth, which has been a cherished principle and a bulwark of faith.

2. THE SETTING OF A HOLINESS STANDARD IN ITS TEACHINGS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF ITS MEMBERS IN DAILY LIVING. This has been of untold value to the influence of the church in setting forth the objectives of holy living for newborn souls; it has convicted many of their sins, restrained thousands from sinning, and identifies the Church, "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord."

3. THE CREATION OF A FORM OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT TO REGULATE ITS OPERATION IN ALL OF ITS FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR. The Government of the church has been a stabilizing medium to a balanced church, regulating irregularities that arise because we are human beings, and feelings have much to do with our motivation. The government of the church in all its scope was designed to work in harmony with the Word and Spirit of God. The government restrains the feelings that would go to the extreme, and strengthens the faith and feelings that are timid. This governing and giving balance have saved the church from the rocks in many instances.

4. THE MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE IN CONFORMITY TO THE GREAT COMMISSION. Jesus said before He went away, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This cannot be ignored or set aside if we are true to Him who saved us and washed us in His own blood, who said He was going away, and for us to occupy until He came. If we are to be followers of Him, if we are to be the pillar and ground of the truth, if we are to hear Him say "Well done, good and faithful servant,"

we cannot sit idly by and ignore what Christ has said. This may be carried out in a number of ways—missionaries in person, personal evangelism, mass evangelism, literature evangelism, Sunday School evangelism, group evangelism radio and TV evangelism and even rocket and satelite evangelism. Matthew 24:14 reads: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

5. THE ESTABLISHING OF AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM. Jesus said for the disciples to tarry until they were endued with power from on high. In Acts 1:8, He said "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and i nall Juaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." In Paul's writing to Timothy, he said: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." Satisfactory completion of any job depends upon preparation. The educational program of the church is ever expanding, at home and abroad, with one objective in view—preparing workers for the GREAT task of carrying out the GREAT COMMISSION of our Lord.

F. W. Lemons

1. THE STEP TO ACCEPT THE PENTECOSTAL MESSAGE.
2. THE STEP TO ACCEPT THE WORLD-WIDE MISSIONARY CHALLENGE.
3. THE STEP TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAK WITH "ONE MAN RULE."
4. THE STEP OF LAUNCHING A SYSTEM OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.
5. THE STEP (RATHER, SIDESTEP) OF ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT OF NONCOMMITMENT ON UNDEFINED, CONTROVERTED BIBLE DOCTRINES.

I WELL REMEMBER the time when our church was not Pentecostal, and the very first Pentecostal meetings that came to our little, despised movement. It was a major step when our leading men received the message favorably. Our history actually begins at that point and almost immediately thereafter the great Pentecostal revival started in Cleveland. This is true, notwithstanding the sporadic outpourings in Brother Bryant's meetings. Had it not been for that historic fact, confirmed by the supernatural deluge in the old tent meeting in Cleveland, I seriously doubt that the movement would have continued to this time. If so it would have been a very insignifcant, backward, old-line holiness group. Some of the institutions of our church have developed in a purely evolutionary manner and their present existence does not represent a decisive step. It is not my opinion from observation that this may be truly said of our missionary program. There was a time when ours was not really a missionary church. While there was never an anti-missions spirit among us, the leaders of our movement viewed the subject quite dimly, if not with downright indifference. Whatever was done by way of missions in the earlier years was chiefly the result of the personal burden of individuals. I maintain this is true despite the financial aid that was given from time to time to certain missionaries and their projects.

It is true that missionary offerings were taken in the General Assemblies, but they were not part of the agenda; they were more often spontaneous when the delegates were in high spirits in response to a report of one of the missionaries who chanced to be present. At such times, someone would rise and give vent to his feelings by opening his heart and purse and proceeding to the platform to lay his gift on the altar. It was often electric and contagious, and the victory march would begin.

I have related these matters to support my position that the missionary spirit and program of our church was sparked by a definite, decided step. This took place under the overseership of J. H. Walker. I believe our church caught her "second wind" at this juncture.

In consideration of step five, it is quite obvious that in the absence of a fixed, clearly defined system of theology, from time to time the church will be faced with intricate and complex questions of Bible doctrine. On such basic and cardinal questions the church can give no uncertain sound if it is to make valid its claim that it is the "pillar and ground of the truth." It is most regrettable that on at least two major issues the church has to her shame refused to answer. One issue concerned the doctrine of the church. Perhaps I should amend the statement to say that if there was an answer, it was evasive and equivocal. I believe it should have been concisely answered. When the sanctification matter arose, the leadership of the church agreed to drop it, leaving everyone free to follow his own way, right or wrong. Our church is now of age; she should exert her influence aggressively and be found at the front with the light on all matters of world importance. In that manner alone may we justify our claims to a place in the world in these strategic times. Nevertheless we follow the road—the beaten paths. "But men of faith climb unscaled walls, and sail uncharted seas; they dare to cross conventions bounds, to set the captives free."

Earl P. Paulk

1. THE WHOLE BIBLE RIGHTLY DIVIDED.

The first and most outstanding step taken by the Church of God was to stand for the whole Bible rightly divided and the New Testament as the only rule for government and discipline.

One of the reasons for this being the first and most outstanding step in the church is that from the eternal and infallible Word of God comes our doctrines, government, and rules, such as,

a. The doctrine of God, our Creator and eternal heavenly Father.

b. The doctrine of Jesus Christ, Saviour of fallen humanity.
c. The doctrine of the Holy Ghost and His administrative authority.
d. The plan of redemption which includes repentance, conversion, regeneration, new birth, sanctification, infilling of the Pentecostal Baptism.

2. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The reason we think it was a progressive thing to have a General Assembly is because there must, of necessity, be some power or authority designated somewhere to interpret doctrines, teachings, and rulings, and to outline order for business for all the local churches. If all congregations are to be benefited, all should have something to do with making such decisions. For this reason, all feel more enthusiastic about putting into effect the program of the general church and obeying all regulations.

We have an example in Acts 15, where the question of circumcision came up on the field. They could not settle it until they went to the general headquarters (Jerusalem) to consider it. Then James, as bishop or overseer, serving as moderator, said in verse 19, "Wherefore my sentence is." In verse 23 we read, "And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia." This proves that it was a general meeting.

Then the 41st verse tells us how they went throughout Syria and Cilicia confirming the (local) churches. Thus, all were knowing and believing the same.

3. THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND THE SUPREME COUNCIL.

We think it was wise to have two councils, namely, the General Council and the Supreme Council. The General Council consists of the ordained ministers (with the voting power), the licensed ministers, and exhorters. The purpose of this council was and is to prepare recommendations for the General Assembly.

The Supreme Council consists of the four general officials (Executive Committee), the twelve councilors, and the general moderator of the Full Gospel Church of God of South Africa. The Supreme Council stands for the General Assembly when it is not in session. They also administer the general tithe fund and make recommendations for the General Council.

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellers there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14). "Without counsel, purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."

4. JOINING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS.

We are now convinced it was wise and progressive to become a member of the N.A.E., which represents millions of born-again Christians who have not bowed their knees to Baal. In my fifteen years of experience with them, I have not seen one thing out of any of the many thousands that I could question concerning their Christian conduct.

By joining the N.A.E., we added much strength to ourselves, and many religious leaders found that we were not just a group of fanatics. This decision extended to us a much broader field of service.

5. "FORWARD IN FAITH" RADIO PROGRAM.

The most recent and outstanding progressive step the church has taken is that of the national radio program, "Forward in Faith," which reaches millions with the Pentecostal message.

E. L. Simmons

IF I SHOULD BE asked what, in my opinion, have been the five most decisive steps of the Church of God, I would answer:

1. FREEDOM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. It seems to me that the Holy Spirit has, and should have had first place in its freedom of movement, in and through the church. This has been acknowledged through the years.

2. CHURCH GOVERNMENT. Second place in decisive steps in my opinion should be goverment. It necessarily follows the exercise of the Spirit and is necessary in all levels of the church. For reference, see Paul's rules of order in 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14. The State Councils and the Supreme Council are excellent examples.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL SYSTEM. Every organization, whether it be a church or something else, must have a financial system. Ours is based on the tithe. Because it is Biblical it is very satisfactory. It takes care of pastors' salary, missions, old age pensions, etc.

4. MISSIONS, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN. No one thing has done more to make the church what it is today than missions. This department of our church is just a working part of the whole.

5. ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER INTERDENOMINATIONAL BODIES. This has had a tendency to broaden our horizon, and to greatly increase our Christian fellowship, especially as it pertains to the Pentecostal doctrine and experience.

Zeno C. Tharp

1. DOCTRINE. New birth, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues—without this, we would have had no church.

2. FINANCIAL SYSTEM. It is not only Scriptural but also it is the best method in the world to support the church and provide for both active and retired ministers.

3. GOVERNMENT. We have a centralized government with the Biblical order of the general overseer down to the pastors and their two-year appointments, then the local church conference up to the General Assembly with a safeguard such as local church councils, the Supreme and General Council.

4. PUBLICATIONS. Printing of church literature, *Evangel, The Lighted Pathway* Sunday School literature, music, and religious books.

5. AMALGAMATIONS. The acceptance of other Pentecostal groups of like faith into the fold of the Church of God has been an important step.

A CHRISTIAN View of the times

The Moral Collapse

By GEORGE L. BRITT

Greer, South Carolina

IT HAPPENED just a few hours ago. I was contemplating on writing about the quiz frauds and the meaning of the complete moral breakdown of these last days when the three of them walked into the parsonage. They were a living illustration for the article: a mother who was frantic with sorrow, a scared little girl, and a frightened little boy who had just turned fifteen years of age. The mother painfully said, "I am almost killed and these children are scared to death."

The little girl was unusually pretty; her white little hands played nervously over the backdrop of a neat black dress. Her hands needed only to clutch a doll to present a beautiful picture of innocent carefree childhood, but now her carefree days were abruptly ended. The little boy's face showed embarrassment and frustration. His countenance pled for help and advice. The whole setting was unnatural. It would have seemed more true to form to watch them skip rope or throw a ball, but now they had to face the harsh responsibilities of adulthood. These children were on the way to becoming parents.

After the pathetic scene was over, I picked up a newspaper and read what seemed to be cruel mockery. The press was disturbed because millions of Americans had had their ego deflated and their pride hurt because they had been tricked into believing the quiz shows were on the level. The chairman of a governmental agency had pledged to clean up T V commercials and also stated, "We will keep the pressure on as long as deceptive advertising remains a problem." These regulative powers pledged diligence to prevent the gullible public from being seduced into buying lotions which are guaranteed to grow hair where there has been none for thirty years, pills which will reduce the glutton, and perfumed creams which will make the homely beautiful. There was nothing said about policing the nation's cesspool, Hollywood, the source of an immoral virus which is debauching and damning this generation. It is obvious that someone is straining at an immoral gnat and is swallowing an immoral camel. Hollywood degenerates are molding the lives of more millions than all the churches and schools in America. What is going to be done about this "deceptive advertising" which glorifies sex and glamourizes adultery? Nothing! The moral depravity of this generation demands obscene entertainment. Also, it brings in too much tainted wealth to be tampered with. Hollywood has deceived this generation into believing that the whole purpose for living is for one big sexual binge and the body is for fornication and not for the Lord.

The deception of the public by the quiz show producers is only a minor expression of the depraved conditions of our age. The immutable Scriptures which were given by a God who has foreknowledge of the future cannot fail. The Scriptures tell us that in the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of their own selves (2 Timothy 3:1). These last days are here. Men have no conscientious scruples where money is involved. Mammon is the only deity worshiped by multiplied millions.

The Scriptures also state that in these last days evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 3:13). Those who are in tune with God and know the Scriptures are not so shocked by their fulfillment as they are sobered by the fact that these are the last days and Jesus is soon coming. Jesus Himself said that in the last days morals would be as they were in the days of Noah and the days of Sodom (Luke 17:26-30). Jesus also said that in the last days iniquity would abound (Matthew 24:12). Iniquity is more universally pronounced than at any time in the history of humanity. Iniquity permeates the whole warp and woof of modern society. There is not a village or hamlet where moral standards are not being trampled in the dirt.

Along with the quiz show frauds, the prevalence of "payola" has been brought to light. The disc jockeys have been bribed to suppress competition while bringing the sex agitating "music" to the public. At the same time the meat racketeers were discovered in the North. Poor people were swindled out of millions of their food dollars by men who would pull down the scales with the wrapping paper, weigh their thumbs and their stomachs and steal the meat after

(Continued on page 13)

Church of God Has THREE SUCCESSFUL "De

By O. W. POLEN

National Sunday School and Youth Director

Rev. Sherman Williams, guest speaker and General Director of the Christian Education Extension for Scripture Press (seated between Lewis J. Willis and O. W. Polen), enjoys the delicious dinner prepared by the San Jose L.W.W.B.

Part of the 150 Church of God members and friends who attended the Denominational Day session in San Jose.

PRIOR TO THE OPENING of the three great National Sunday School Association Conventions held during October and November, 1959, the Church of God conducted a Denominational Day activity in San Jose, California (October 7), Atlanta, Georgia (October 21), and Columbus, Ohio (November 11). A total of *332* Church of God delegates officially registered in these three N.S.S.A. Conventions—the greatest number from the Church of God ever to register in a N.S.S.A. Convention.

For a report of the San Jose Denominational Day program, *Fred Swank*, State Director of California, says:

"Yes, our Church of God Denominational Day in San Jose, California, was a joyous occasion. The day began at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 7, with Reverend L. W. McIntyre, our State Overseer, in charge of devotions.

"After devotions and a warm welcome by our state overseer, Reverend O. W. Polen, our National Sunday School and Youth Director, was introduced and the day's activities began. There were ten 'progressive workshops' that helped all who attended to better understand the Sunday School and youth program. At the close of the workshop session, Reverend Sherman Williams brought us a stirring message on 'How to Build a Great Sunday School.' This was followed by a round-table discussion on 'What N.S.S.A Contributes to the Church of God.'

"To climax the day's activities, we enjoyed a fellowship banquet. The banquet room was filled with over a hundred happy people.

"We left the beautiful San Jose Church happy and

"Denominational Days" N.S.S.A. CONVENTIONS

inspired to do a greater work for Christ. Those of us who were privileged to attend the N.S.S.A. Convention found it to be very helpful in our work. We give thanks to God for the help and inspiration we received from our Denominational Day and the N.S.S.A. Convention. It is training sessions such as this that will keep the Church of God marching on 'like a mighty army.' "

Giving his report concerning the Denominational Day conducted in Atlanta, Georgia, *Floyd D. Carey, Jr.*, pastor of the Nashville, Georgia, Church of God, states:

"Cars, bearing license plates from more than seven different states, could be seen parked near the Hemphill Avenue Church of God on Wednesday afternoon, October 21, as this was the site for Church of God D-Day activities. Denominational Day was a pre-inspirational and informative session, under the direction of O. W. Polen, National Sunday School and Youth Director, prior to the official opening of the National Sunday School Association Convention which convened at the Biltmore Hotel on October 21-23.

"Pastors, Sunday School enthusiasts, and youth workers, with eager hearts and receptive promotional reservoirs, assembled on this day for a profitable evening of pleasant association, productive admonitions, and serviceable Sunday School and youth work suggestions.

"This day within itself could have adequately and sufficiently served advantageously as a miniature Sunday School and Youth Convention. Progressive workshops covering ten areas of vital Sunday School and youth work were conducted.

" 'How to Build a Great Sunday School' was the challenging and awakening message of Dr. Dean Dalton, Director, Christian Education Services, Gospel Light Publications.

"A round-table discussion by O. W. Polen, Charles W. Conn, Lewis J. Willis, and E. C. Thomas, on the subject 'What N.S.S.A. Contributes to the Church of God,' was another factual feature of the service.

"At the end of this three-hour impressive session, the 175 attentive delegates enjoyed momentary fellowship and then prepared to engage in a 'Fellowship Banquet' at a nearby restaurant.

"The National Sunday School and Youth Department, as always, prepared an excellent program and executed the contents thereof gracefully. Church of God Denominational Day was definitely a contributing influence to the over-all success of the National Sunday School Association Convention."

The Columbus, Ohio, Denominational Day was also

Church of God delegates in Columbus, Ohio, assemble in neighboring Community Recreational Center for a Denominational Day Banquet prior to attending the opening session of the N.S.S.A. Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

most successful and inspiring. The same program was followed there as in San Jose and Atlanta. The session was held at the Church of God, located at 286 Belvidere Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, where Reverend A. W. Ellington is the pastor. Brother Ellington and his L.W.W.B. are to be commended for their preparatory work and for the delicious dinner served from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Here again the Church of God delegates were challenged with an inspiring sermon given by Reverend Sherman Williams, General Director of Christian Education Extension for Scripture Press, Wheaton, Illinois.

The host State Overseer and State Director, Reverend D. C. Boatwright and Reverend C. Milton Parsons, helped to make the day a most pleasant one for the fine number of state overseers, state directors, the State Council, and State Sunday School and Youth Board members, pastors, and workers who attended.

the readers' query

answers by the editor

Is the account of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16 a parable? —*Mrs. B. E. King*
Essex, North Carolina

SOME PEOPLE CONTEND that the story of Lazarus and the rich man was not a parable because of the words "there was a certain rich man." A parable however could be either true or untrue. You will find that in Luke 12:16 Jesus combined the word "parable" and the word "certain," proving that a parable can be an actual account of some happening. A parable is simply a story given to illustrate a point. Some parables were hypothetical, such as those found in Matthew 13, and some parables were taken from actual incidents. Preachers today do the very same thing with their illustrations. Sometimes they illustrate a point by relating an actual incident and sometimes they use a figure of speech.

The fact that the story of Lazarus and the rich man is a parable does not in any way deny its reality. Jesus simply made His point by telling something that He knew to be actually so. The story was a true one and its grim warning should be heeded by all of us today.

What are the rapture and the millennium?
—*Leatha Conrad*
Columbus, Ohio

THE RAPTURE HAS REFERENCE to the time that Jesus will catch His people away from the earth to meet Him in the air (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). This momentous event can take place at any time. The righteous dead will come out of their graves and the living Christians will be caught up with them to meet Christ in the air. We call this the rapture because the word "rapture" means "to carry or transport a person or thing from one place or sphere of existence to another."

About seven years of tribulation will follow the rapture. After the seven years of tribulation, the Lord and all those Christians whom He has raptured from the earth will return to the earth for a thousand years (see Revelation 20:4). It is called "millennium" from the Latin word *mille* (thousand) and *annus* (year). After the millennium is over, the Lord will establish His eternal reign.

— — —

Can you give any Scripture that condones or justifies baptism by sprinkling?
(Name withheld by request)

NO. BAPTISM BY SPRINKLING has its basis in tradition and custom rather than in the Scriptures. Every mention of the baptismal rite in the New Testament alludes strongly to immersion; for instance, Jesus came up straightway out of the water, Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water, and Romans 6:4 says that we are buried with him by baptism. Church history records that only immersion was practiced by the earliest Christians. Sprinkling was substituted in lands where there was a scarcity of water or in places where for reasons of persecution or necessity, immersion was virtually impossible.

Where did Satan come from? Was he an angel at one time? —*Mrs. James Buchanon*
Colburn, Virginia

BEFORE HE BECAME the devil, Satan was Lucifer, son of the morning (Isaiah 14:12). He became Satan through a five fold ambition: (1) to ascend into heaven; (2) to exalt his throne above the stars of God; (3) to sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; (4) to ascend above the heights of the clouds; (5) to be like the most High. Ezekiel 28:12-19 obviously refers to the position of Lucifer before his fall. No other person who has ever lived fits the description that is given there. He was created, not born; he was in an Eden of precious stones; he was an anointed cherub; he was upon the holy mountain of God; he was perfect in his ways. When he was lifted up in pride, Lucifer degenerated into the devil. After Satan fell from heaven (Luke 10:18) he became the prince of the powers of the air (Ephesians 2:2), which he is today.

Was it Samuel that came up from the grave to Saul in 1 Samuel 28? —*Mrs. Charles E. Pratt*
Greensboro, North Carolina

I DO NOT believe so. The Scripture speaks as though it were Samuel because Saul accepted it to be Samuel. No where in Scripture is there any indication that those who have gone to their rest are troubled by or even aware of the further affairs of men on earth. God alone could have brought Samuel up from the dead, and He does not work through witchcraft. The fact that Saul saw demon spirits is inferred in 1 Samuel 28:13, "I saw gods ascending out of the earth." The spirit that appeared to Saul told him in verse 19 that "to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me." Certainly Saul, an iniquitous man, was not in the same place as Samuel, a righteous man, after death.

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I Know a Man (Williams)
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Jesus Holds the Keys (Ellis)
Jesus Is Mine Sumner)
Jesus Lives and All Is Well (Ellis)
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Jesus Set Me Free (Ellis)
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The Lord Still Cares for You (Ellis)
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The Voice of the Lord (Ellis)
Then I Met the Master (Lister)
Then My Life Will Just Begin (Ellis)
There He Stands (Ellis)
These Are the Things That Matter (Smith)
This Side of Heaven (Grogan)
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Walk on the Water (Lister)
Walking up the Streets of Gold (Ellis)
What a Happy, Happy Time (Humphries)
What a Wondrous Day (Parks)
What Can He Do (Ellis)
When I Stand With the King (Grogan)
When I'm Alone (Sumner)
Where No One Stands Alone (Lister)
Without a Prayer (Blackwood)
Wonderful Love (Sumner)
Wonderful Savior (Sumner)

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THE MARKS OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

(Continued from page 3)

to do all these things.

To judge our degree of success, we must measure ours not by the attainments of others, but by the criterion of ourselves. Judge yourself, what you have done by what you could have done. If you have done less than you were capable of doing, you have failed. If you are doing less than that of what you are capable you are failing—regardless of how much you are doing. If one man does little and another man does much, but the man who did little did all that he could and the man who did much did only half as much as he could, then the man who did less is a greater success than the man who did much. Never judge yourself successful simply because you have done more than your fellow man.

The person who is able to lead souls to Christ is a successful person for God. The Christian calling is not to gain wealth, attain position, or claim popularity—it is to win the lost. Let us not, then, console ourselves until we are effective and consistent winners of souls, even though we possess all impostors of success. Don't glory in what you have become in position or what you have gained in wealth or popularity, but what you have done to spread the glory of the Lord in the hearts of men.

Success for the Christian can be determined by how nearly we become like Christ. Neither rank nor wealth nor fame can do this. Only those things which promote your becoming nearer like Christ are steps in successful Christian living. According to the true criteria of success, there will be many surprises in the judgment, for many who have used false standards and adjudged themselves successful will discover themselves to have been miserable failures, while those who have thought themselves failures in life will find themselves the greatest successes of all.

THE MORAL COLLAPSE

(Continued from page 7)

it was purchased. Those who were entrusted to protect the public were taking bribes to let this racket go unmolested.

Along with this wanton dishonesty it is revealed that the producers of drugs which will alleviate the pains of the sick and the aged, the majority of whom are living on meager pensions and social security, are practicing extortion on these poor suffering people to the tune of 10,000 per cent profit.

How correct a picture prophecy painted when it was stated, "In the last days perilous times shall come." According to reliable statistics, the pornographic business in which millions of revolting pictures are mailed to teen-agers every year is a multimillion dollar business. Fifteen million sex magazines are sold openly in America monthly. One hundred thousand girls become prostitutes every year; one million girls are infected with social disease; one million children are born out of wedlock every year. There are more barmaids than college girls in America. There is one murder every forty minutes, three major crimes each sixty seconds, and a suicide every twenty seconds. A robbery, murder, criminal assault, or swindle occupies the front page of almost every newspaper.

In many of our cities there are groups who meet in dilapidated dens and, having renounced all inhibitions, give themselves over to alcohol, dope and sex. They are known by the euphemism "Beatniks" or "Beat Generation." This is a misnomer; they are a lost generation. It is sad to behold the moral conditions of our day, but the Scriptures foretold these conditions. These same Scriptures tell us of the dawn of the literal kingdom of heaven soon to come when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Pray for some very serious unspoken requests and for the salvation of my children.
—A sister in Christ

Pray for a man in Atlanta who needs God. He is hardhearted and cruel but could be a wonderful man with God in his heart. Also pray for a friend who is paralyzed from the waist down. God can heal him.
—Cecil Johnson
Miami, Florida

— — —

Pray that the Lord will heal my body so that I may be able to carry on the work for Him.
—Rev. Luther Terry
622 E. Main Street
Paw Paw, Michigan

— — —

Pray for Mrs. Arietta Brown, a new sister in Christ, who is dying of cancer. She has not given up hope. Those who know God's power know that she can be healed. Doctors give her a few weeks but we know that God can give her many years.
—Curtis Tiller
3712 Conners Road
Emmett, Michigan

Pray for a very special unspoken request.
—Alma Bradley
Chelsea, Alabama

— — —

Pray for the salvation of my husband. *—Mrs. James Leon Rice*
Cincinnati, Ohio

— — —

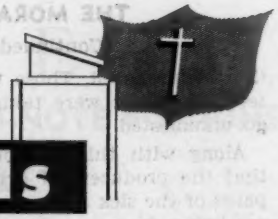
Pray for my children's salvation.
—Eva Varner
Gastonia, North Carolina

— — —

Pray for my sister who has had several nervous breakdowns that she will be delivered so she will be able to get back in the gospel work.
—Mrs. R. Maybe
28727 Avondale
Inkster, Michigan

— — —

Pray that the Lord will undertake in my life and that I will be ready to meet Jesus when He comes for His own.*—Bonnie Baker*
Anna, Illinois



revivals

Blessed Revival at Franklin

FRANKLIN, Ky.—The Franklin Church of God is happy to report a great revival with Rev. G. R. Morris and wife from Glasgow, Kentucky, as the evangelist. They did some old-time Holy Ghost preaching and singing which stirred the hearts of many each night. Ten souls were saved, 7 sanctified, 2 filled with the Holy Ghost, 1 was added to the church with others to come later. Several were healed.

The revival closed with a high spirit. Pray that we will keep this great spirit going in our church. Any church would be blessed to have Brother and Sister G. R. Morris in their church for a revival.

—Pastor

— — —

Revival Spirit Continues

CONWAY, S. C.—The Lord has given us one of the most outstanding revivals in many years here in Conway. Our new pastor, Rev. Robert A. Taylor, conducted the revival along with the members. There were 29 saved, 19 sanctified, 6 baptized with the Holy Ghost, and 15 added to the church. We praise the Lord for the revival spirit that is now in our midst.

—Reporter

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Church Greatly Blessed in Revival

THOMASTON, Ga.—We recently closed a very successful revival with Brother James Poe Jackson as the evangelist. The Spirit of God moved in a miraculous way in each service. The first night there were 10 saved and 9 filled with the Holy Ghost. The last night there were 50 in the altar. The approximate count in the entire revival was 30 saved, 20 sanctified, 20 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 10 added to the church.

Brother Jackson will help any church. He also has been anointed to pray for the sick and has very good success. If you believe in old-time holiness preaching, surely you will want Brother Jackson as an evangelist.

—Mrs. Alice Page, reporter

Good Relival at Milledgeville

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. — The Milledgeville Church of God has closed a revival with Rev. Hoyt Partain as the evangelist. There were 3 saved, 1 sanctified, 1 filled with the Holy Ghost and 2 added to the Church.

Rev. Partain is a wonderful evangelist and will do your church good.

—H. B. Wilkins, pastor

— — —

Successful Revival in Glen White

GLEN WHITE, W. Va.—We are happy to report the success of our revival with Sister Jackie Gladella from Eccles, West Virginia. The five-week revival resulted in 27 souls being saved, 12 being sanctified, and 9 being filled with the Holy Ghost. The church was blessed spiritually.

—Mrs. John Meadows, clerk

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Eighteen Receive Definite Experiences With the Lord

SAVANNAH, Ga.—We wish to report that our four-week revival in July and August, with Brother and Sister L. M. Anderson, was a good one. There were 18 persons who received definite experiences with the Lord. Brother and Sister Anderson are good evangelists, and our church liked them very much. *—Mrs. Marie Bell, clerk*

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"Spiritual Growth Week" Revival Strengthens Church

NASHVILLE, Ga.—With a hot summer almost in the rear and a cold winter in the distant horizon, the Nashville Church planned and conducted a "Spiritual Growth Week." The purpose of this series of services was to equip our members with heavy spiritual clothing to combat successfully the temptations that always come with a change of seasons. Lest a person become satisfied with a seasonal religion, he must be made aware of the consequence thereof and the indescribable joy of full-time Christian service.

Each night consisted of a different minister who spoke on a specific phase of church growth. Pastors from neighboring districts were the guest speakers. Listed below is an outline of the services.

1. "A Church Growing in Stewardship"—H. V. Fowler, pastor at Tifton
2. "Growing a Bible-Centered Church"—Paul W. Fowler, pastor at Ocilla
3. "A Church Growing in Prayer Power"—T. W. Waits, pastor at Douglas
4. "A Church Growing in Evangelism"—Elmer Golden, pastor at Waycross: Brunel Street
5. "Growing a Church for the Glory of God"—Ray Pace, pastor at Moultrie

Each one of these services was characterized by a message from the Master given through the guest speaker and a sincere desire on the part of the members to grow. Our church was strengthened and challenged to greater service by this special series of services.

—Floyd D. Carey, Jr., pastor

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Church at Winfield Revived

WINFIELD, Ala.—The Rock City Church of God has just closed a wonderful revival with Brother Donald Bradley from Chelsea, Alabama, as the evangelist. The Lord met with us in a mighty way and the church has been revived. Five souls were saved, 1 was sanctified, 2 were filled with the Holy Ghost, 4 baptized in water, and 5 added to the church.

Our new pastor, Brother R. C. Miller, is doing a wonderful work at Rock City.

—Mrs. Marie Norris, clerk

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God Blesses at Crossville, Alabama

CROSSVILLE, Ala.—We have just closed a wonderful revival with Sister Venian Boyles from East Gadsden, Alabama, doing the preaching. We had 8 saved, 7 sanctified, 6 filled with the Holy Ghost, 11 baptized in water, and 3 added to the church.

We feel that any church would be blessed to have Sister Boyles for a revival.

—Rev. H. C. Blancett, pastor

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Wonderful Revival at Clearwater

CLEARWATER, Fla.—We have just closed a wonderful revival at the Clearwater, Florida, Church of God with Rev. J. E. Smeltzer as the evangelist. It was a very successful meeting. Twenty-four souls were saved, 10 sanctified 10 filled with the Holy Ghost and 4 joined the church. Rev. H. L. Chesser is the pastor. *—Reporter*

in memoriam

ROBERTS

On February 5, 1959, God called Sister Laura Roberts home to glory. Sister Roberts, or "Mother Roberts," as she was called by many, was a faithful warrior for the Lord. She lived to be 80 years old, and spent the most of those 80 years as a Christian. She is greatly missed by everyone; she taught Sunday School and played the piano until the week she was suddenly taken away to be with the Lord.

The funeral was conducted at the Willacoochee Church of God by her pastor, Rev. Leon C. Taylor, and 2 of her former pastors, Rev. Laster Rowe, and Rev. Glen Young.

Survivors are 2 daughters, 4 sons, 3 sisters, 13 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren. Burial was in the city cemetery in Willacoochee.

—Rev. Leon C. Taylor, pastor

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SCOGGINS

Rev. Herschel N. Scoggins, a pioneer for Christ and His church, left this world of suffering and heartache to be with his Lord Monday evening, June 22, 1959. Rev. Herschel N. Scoggins, son of the late W. F. and Lou Ella Scoggins, was born May 22, 1892, in the State of Tennessee. He was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Earls, September 10, 1912. God blessed this union with four children, all of whom survive.

Both Rev. Scoggins and his wife were converted and became members of the Church of God before their marriage. He was converted in December, 1911, and was sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost in March, 1912, and became a charter member of the Mount Olive Church of God in April or May of that same year. It would seem that the call of God to preach the gospel was upon his life from the beginning, because he was licensed as a Church of God minister in November, 1912. As a pioneer for the church in its earlier days, Rev. Scoggins preached the gospel of Christ in several states.

He served as a minister in the church 45 years and 7 months. Thirty-two years of this period he served as an ordained minister of the church. During these 45 years and 7 months, Rev. Scoggins served his church well. He served as state overseer for 20 years: from 1918-1923, he was overseer of Texas; 1924-1926, of West Virginia; 1926-1929, of Tennessee; 1930-1931, of Illinois; 1932-1934, three more years in West Virginia; 1936, of Missouri, and another three years in Texas, 1937-1939. He served as a member of the General Executive Committee for 2 years, 1930-32; a member of the Supreme Council for 5 years, 1930-1935; a member of the Council of Seventy for 8 years, 1921-1929; and a member of Supreme Judges Court of Justice for 2 years, 1931-1932. In addition to these official capacities, he served 15 years as pastor in some five states. For the past 10 years he had been in retirement because of disability. Only heaven will reveal the influence his life had on the many lives he touched as he traveled the many miles for God.

Rev. Scoggins, in an article he wrote entitled "If I Could Live Life Over," said, "I can't think of anything I had rather be than a Church of God minister and work for His cause. I sure have enjoyed my work for the Lord, and am happy that He called me into His service. My wife is due a big portion of credit for whatever measure of success I have had." Sister Scoggins said, "I loved him more than anything in this world and appreciated him for what he was."

The funeral was conducted at the Eldorado Church of God, 2 p.m., Thursday, June 25, 1959. The funeral message being preached by Rev. Houston R. Morehead, State Overseer of Florida, assisted by R. D. Harris, pastor of the Eldorado Church of God.

Ministers and friends from various parts of the State came to pay tribute to a great pioneer who had not sacrificed in vain but who had laid down his tabernacle of clay to march through gates of splendor to receive his reward.

—R. D. Harris, pastor

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PUCKETT

We in Indiana are saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of our Brother Fred Puckett, Friday, July 17. Until the time of his death, Brother Puckett had been actively engaged in the pastoral ministry, having pastored the Muncie, Indiana, Church for the past six years.

Brother Puckett was converted in the Shelburn, Indiana, Church thirty-five years ago, and took fellowship with the Church of God the same year. Three years after joining the Church of God, he accepted his first pastorate at Coalmont, Indiana. Later, he established the Jasonville Church, and was pastor when their building was constructed. In addition to his pastorates at Coalmont, Jasonville and Muncie, Brother Puckett served as pastor of the New Castle Church. His ministry has been very fruitful; and through the years, he has led many souls to the Christ whom he loved so dearly and served so well.

Survivors include his faithful wife and companion, Gertrude, two daughters, four sons, two sisters, three brothers and eleven grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted at the Muncie Church, Sunday, July 19, with the Reverend Luther E. Painter, State Overseer of Indiana, assisted by the Reverend E. W. Fowler, officiating. On Monday, another service was conducted in the Shelburn Church with the Reverend C. H. Standifer, assisted by the State Overseer and the Reverend William Simpson in charge. Interment was at Hymera, Indiana.

Brother Fred Puckett is missed greatly by his family, by his host of friends, by the Muncie Church and by the Church of God in Indiana. However, the fine example of his dedicated life, and his godly influence will continue to live in the hearts of those who knew this man of God. *—State Overseer of Indiana*

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ABERNATHY

Rev. J. L. Abernathy, a faithful minister and member of the Highway Church of God at Fyffe, Alabama, departed this life to receive his reward October 28, 1959, at the age of 79.

He bore his long sickness with patience and always had a sweet smile. He will be greatly missed by the church.

His funeral was conducted by his pastor, Rev. Charlie Guinn.

—T. O. Maddox, reporter

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NABORS

Sister Anna Nabors, wife of Rev. Jake U. Nabors, passed away October 28, 1959, at the age of 79 years, 5 months, and 16 days. For 38 years she had been a devoted member of the Thorn Church of God at Thorn, Mississippi.

She leaves her husband, 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild to mourn her death.

—Reporter

Your Pentecostal Neighbor

By Earl P. Paulk, Jr.

Earl P. Paulk, Jr.

Earl P. Paulk, Jr., author, lecturer, radio speaker on national radio program, Forward in Faith, and pastor extraordinary, is the son of a prominent Pentecostal preacher and leader. For the past seven years, Mr. Paulk has served as pastor of the influential Hemphill Avenue Church of God in Atlanta, Georgia. Presently, he is president of the Atlanta Pentecostal Fellowship and Chairman of the Chaplaincy Committee for the Atlanta Induction Center.

Mr. Paulk received the B.A. degree from Furman University and the B.D. degree from the Candler School of Theology of Emory University.

Reviews From Pentecostals:

"A simple, yet learned, statement of Pentecostal faith, written with the vibrant subjectivity of one who himself is Pentecostal. It is . . . a calm and distinguished presentation of the Christian spectrum as seen through the eyes of 'Your Pentecostal Neighbor' " —Charles W. Conn, Editor-in-Chief, Church of God Publications.

"Superbly well-written in the language of the layman, this book defines the Pentecostal and the ultimate authority for his religious beliefs."—Lewis J. Willis, Director of Sunday School and Youth Literature.

"I like this book. I like its conception, for we need books like this that we can place in the hands of neighbors who are genuinely interested in what we believe and teach and practice . . . The book is to be highly commended."—Donald Gee, Editor of Pentecost Magazine.

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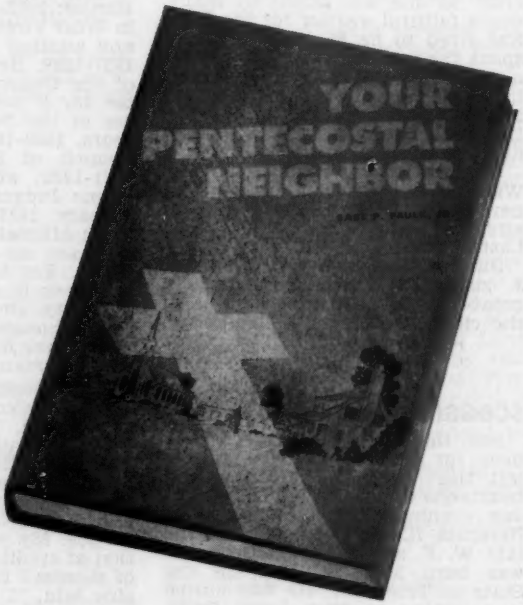

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